Vol. 68 — No. 9 — COMPANY F FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2008 WWW.MCRDSD.USMC.MIL

Corps' finest performs for depot, San Diego community

BY LANCE CPL. ROBERT W. BEAVER
Chevron staff

Close to 4,000 local guests watched the Marine Corps' finest ceremonial performers exemplify the professionalism associated with the United States Marine Corps at Shepherd Memorial Drill Field Saturday.

The Battle Color Detachment—composed of the United States Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps, the Silent Drill Platoon and the United States Marine Corps Color Guard—entertained the thousands of civilian and military spectators in attendance with musical selections and precision drill movements.

"We have a great relationship with the community," said Brig. Gen. Angie Salinas, commanding general, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region. "It was very important for us to showcase the event to the community because it showed them some of the best representatives of the Marine Corps."

The detachment is showcased in performances around the world, sharing the Marine Corps' story with communities and recruits alike.

The Battle Color Detachment performed at 10 a.m. for recruits and at 2:30 p.m. for the community. The last performance produced a record number of spec-



Marines with the Silent Drill Platoon perform one of the final movements of their 10 minute drill exhibition during the Battle Color Ceremony at Shepherd Memorial Drill Field Saturday. The Silent Drill Platoon is composed of 24 Marines who are selected from the Schools of Infantry at Camp Pendleton, Calif. and Camp Lejuene, N.C. (For more photos see page 2) Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver/Chevron

tators, according to Col. Warren Foersch, depot operations officer.

"This event was by far the biggest," said Foersch. "Having served here twice over the last 25 years, I have never seen (the event) this big on the depot."

Known as the "Commandant's Own," the United States Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps began the ceremony with their "Music in Motion" program combining contemporary and traditional military marching music with precision choreography and ended the show with *The Stars and Stripes Forever*.

The Silent Drill Platoon affixed bayonets to their polished M-1 Garand rifles and carried out a 20-minute drill exhibition without the use of verbal commands.

The 24-Marine platoon completed various movements that included spinning and tossing their 10-and-a-half pound rifles into the air.

"I've seen the (Silent Drill Platoon) numerous times," said retired Navy Cmdr. Dennis Mortensen. "They continue to be the sharpest Marines around."

The United States Marine

Corps Color Guard carried the official battle colors of the Marine Corps before the crowd. The Battle Colors bear the fifty streamers that represent U.S. and foreign unit awards as well as those periods of service, expeditions, and campaigns in which the Marine Corps has participated from the American Revolution to today.

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Navy Marine Corps Relief Society kicks off annual fundraising effort

BY GUNNERY SGT. LAURA GAWECKI Chevron Staff

The depot's Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society fundraising drive kicked off March 1 and will continue through April 30.

The NMCRS is a non-profit organization that assists active duty and retired Marines, sailors and their families with interest-free loans and other forms of assistance during difficult financial times. Nationally, it provided \$39.1 million in emergency aid and \$4.5 million in education programs, according to Mike R. Brown, director of NMCRS MCRD San Diego.

Last year, the depot contributed \$92,699 to benefit active and retired communities of the naval services. The goal this year is to raise \$120,510. The goal is a 30 percent increase from last year's totals, according to Capt. Michael J. Lorenzo Jr., the depot coordinator.

The NMCRS gave out \$80,675 in interest-free emergency loans and \$3,109 in grants to depot service members and their

families last year, said Lorenzo. These emergencies included: emergency transportation, funeral expenses, medical and dental bills, food, rent, utility bills, disaster relief assistance, child care expenses, and car repairs.

The emergency loan amount is determined by the client's needs.

Whether a person receives a grant or a loan is based upon their financial situation after a home budget is approved by NMCRS, said Brown.

"A lot of our clients are living paycheck to paycheck due to the cost of living in San Diego," said Brown. "Living here eats up their paychecks and it can be very difficult to make ends meet in this area if they have one unforeseen emergency."

Brown said that many of his clients are also in need of assistance because of budget mismanagement.

"Once they sit down with us and do a budget, a light bulb goes on in their heads and they realize that they are not budgeting as well as they should."

Society-wide, 70 percent of NMCRS clients are assisted only

once, said Brown.

"We help them get over the bump in the road, and hopefully, our budget education helps them to manage their funds from then on."

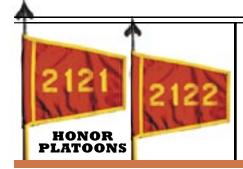
The NMCRS fund drive is unique because all available resources are used to assist personnel of the naval services – active, retired, and their eligible family members.

"The fundraising is not for outside agencies," said Lorenzo.
"This is for us."

Most of the money we lend is paid back, said Brown. Loans are repaid through allotments.

"Most loan amounts exceed our annual historical contributions," said Brown. "Regardless, 100 percent of the donations go to services. Administration fees come out of a reserve fund from interest earned on investments."

"Another goal of the drive is to ensure that we contact everyone," said Lorenzo. Those interested in contributing should contact their unit representatives or NMCRS, located in Bldg. 14 behind the Fitness Center, at (619) 524-5434.



Recruiter of the Year flies with the

RECRUIT SPOTLIGHT

Company F honorman trains at MCRD Parris Island and San Diego

6

SCAVENGER HUNT

Single Marine Program members scour San Diego in Photo Scavenger Hunt

8





Marines with the Silent Drill Platoon, left, toss their 10-and-a-half pound M-1 Garand rifles into the air during the Battle Color Ceremony at Shepherd Memorial Drill Field Saturday. The United States Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps, above, dazzled the audience with military precision choreography and music. This year's event brought nearly 4,000 spectators to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

Spread glad tidings, stay away from gossip

BY LT. CMDR. RONALD R. RINGO Headquarters and Service Bn., Command Chaplain

I would like to touch on a matter that I have been seeing a lot lately. It seems common practice today for people to say things about their friends, family or neighbors that are very critical of any peculiarities or weaknesses. Looking for such differences divides us from those who could often use our friendship. Maybe we should follow the example of the Special Olympics program, which teaches those with handicaps of various kinds to look at their similarities rather than the differences. It might help us all to be a bit happier.

The reasons why we shouldn't be so judgmental are pretty obvious. We can't really know what is in the heart of another. We can't know their true motives, although we tend to assign motives to most every action we witness. Actual motives may be quite pure, while we are thinking they are improper.

How do we do this? With all our weaknesses, imperfections, and frailties, how do

we put ourselves into the position of being a judge? It is said that life requires the exercise of good judgment. We judge if we can afford a new purchase, if we have time for a project; we judge our own success at achieving our goals, or improving our behavior. In these instances judgment is in its proper place. While we often need to make judgments that help ensure our own safety of that of our children, we must still be careful that we do not follow up these judgments with gossip.

We would be wise to remember that the further out of line we tend to be, the more likely, and even more inclined, we are to look for those weaknesses and imperfections in those around us. We may find ourselves trying to rationalize and even justify our own faults, instead of trying to improve on ourselves. We should beware of confessing other's sins when we need to work on our own.

Gossip and talking about others is one of the worst forms of judging others. The tongue is the most dangerous, destructive and deadly weapon available to man. We

have seen this to some degree in the propaganda war we have had to fight in the War on Terrorism. With all the different players in the war, we have been having a tougher fight countering the dissenter's verbal barrage of lies and deceit.

It would be wise if we would determine now that in the heart of the campaign we call life, we will not indulge or participate in the harmful gossip that we so often hear. We must not rail against our brothers or sisters and accuse them of things we do not really know that they have done. We would be better to stand on a higher principle. Only by suspending judgment, guarding our tongues and what we say to whom will we exhibit what most really want, real charity.

It has been said, that gossip and Gospel are both found in the dictionary on the same page, and their first three letters are the same. But their meanings are quite different – gossip is defined as idle talk; Gospel is defined as glad tidings.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone spread the Gospel instead of gossip?

TRICARE tools tame tax time

BY BRIAN P. SMITH
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

ax season is no longer approaching; it's right outside, ringing the doorbell. Instead of digging through piles of paper looking for last year's forms and receipts, you can find your TRICARE costs online. TriWest Healthcare Alliance, the TRICARE West Region contractor, has made available account and payment information just a click away for users registered at www.triwest.com.

Register Online

Registration is easy. Eligible beneficiaries can go to the Web site and choose "Log In" on the home page. If you do not already have an established account, follow the "Create an Account" link on the left of the page for a guided tour of the beneficiary registration process.

Account History

To help you track annual health

care expenses, TriWest makes copies of your claims explanation of benefits and your enrollment fee payments available online to view or print anytime. When you have a registered account, you can see each claim EOB and each enrollment fee payment you made during the year. Add the members of your family with TRICARE coverage to your account and they will be able to view this information as well.

The claims EOB will show TRI-CARE's coverage of your health care expenses as well as any amount that you were responsible for. The enrollment fee payment history will show the last 24 payments toward your TRICARE Prime enrollment fees or TRICARE Reserve Select premiums.

Users who log into their TriWest accounts will also be able to see a list of payments made toward their family's annual TRICARE Prime enrollment fee.

Qualified Medical Expenses

If you itemize your annual de-

ductions, certain medical expenses may be eligible for deduction. The Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service allows for certain medical expenses like the cost of equipment, supplies, and diagnostic devices, dental expenses, as well as fees for eye exams, eyeglasses and contact lenses. Check with a tax professional for all allowable deductions.

Find Information

If you have questions about your tax return and supporting documentation, contact a tax advisor or visit a military base tax preparation center near you, if available. There are special tax provisions for members of the military listed at www.irs.gov; click on "Individuals" along the top of the page and then follow the "Military" link for specific information.

For more information about your TriWest account, visit Beneficiary Services at www.triwest.com or call 1-888-TRIWEST (874-9378).

BRIEFS

Friday Night Special Basketball

The Marine Corps Recruit Depot varsity basketball team will take on San Diego's Wildcats semi-pro basketball team at the Fieldhouse, Bldg. 650, at 5:30 p.m. tonight. The event will last until 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome . For information call (619) 524-8382.

St. Patrick's Day 3-Mile Fun Run and Walk

The annual Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego St. Patrick's Day Fun Run and Walk will be run today at 1 p.m. Race-day registration begins at 10:30 a.m. For online registration visit www.mccsmcrd.com, or call (619) 524-0548 for details. Registered finishers will receive a free T-shirt. Awards will be given to the top three finishers in each category. There will also be a raffle, free food and prizes. The parking lot closest to the depot's Recreation Center, Bldg. 590, is closed until 4:30 p.m. today in order to support the St. Patrick's Day Fun Run and Walk. The parking lot will re-open after 4:30 p.m.

National Prayer Breakfast

The National Prayer Breakfast will be held March 20 from 7 to 8 a.m. at Duncan Hall. Each year National Prayer Breakfasts are held around the country to support our nation through prayer and to celebrate our nation's spiritual and moral heritage. The theme of this year's Prayer Breakfast is "Prayer! Americas' Strength and Shield." The guest speaker will be Gerald McRaney, star of "Major Dad," "Promised Land," and "Jericho."

Easter Champagne Brunch Buffet

The Bay View restaurant will offer a Easter Champagne Brunch Buffet March 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Price for adults is \$24.95; children ages 3 to 11 years old is \$12.50; and children under 3 years old eat free. There will be a breakfast station, carving station, hot chaffing dishes and a dessert station. An Easter Egg hunt and free photos with the Easter Bunny will be available. For reservations, call (619) 725-6356.

Tax Center

Free income tax preparation is offered to active duty, reservists on active duty, retirees and dependants through April 15 at the Legal Assistance Office, Bldg. 12, across the street from the Depot Fitness Center. Those interested in this service must bring a Social Security card, photo identification, W-2 forms, 1098/99s, 2006 tax returns, bank account and routing numbers, child care tax IDs and amounts paid, interest and bank statements, tuition documents and spouse powers of attorney. Call (619) 524-4110 for information Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Cheerleading Clinic

Learn the fundamentals of cheer-leading, cheers, chants and dance on the field next to the Fieldhouse Gym. A one-hour class will be offered to children age five to 14 Wednesdays from 5 to 6 p.m. Cost is \$30 per person. For information, call (619) 524-4428.

SEND BRIEFS TO:

roger.edwards@usmc.mil. The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards of the U.S. Government.

Top Marine recruiter flies with Blue Angels

"This was a ride of a lifetime. I have a newfound respect for what these pilots do. In Iraq I always saw them overhead and wondered what it would be like up there."

— Staff Sgt. Brandon Dickinson

By Staff Sgt. Roman Yurek RS Milwaukee

he Marine Corps
Recruiting Command Recruiter of
the Year for fiscal
year 2007 received more than
an award and recognition for
his consistently high standards of recruiting during the
year.

Shortly after the MCRC annual awards ceremony in December 2007, Staff Sgt.
Brandon Dickinson, the staff noncommissioned officer-incharge of Recruiting Substation Waukesha, Recruiting Station Milwaukee, Wis., was invited to Naval Air Facility El Centro, Calif., for a unique opportunity afforded to only 10 to 15 people a year – a flight with the Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Navy Blue Angels.

"We generally don't take service members up in the jet (F/A-18 Hornet) for our VIP rides," said Marine Corps Capt. Tyson Dunkelberger, public affairs officer for Marine Aviation Training Support Group 21, Pensacola, Fla. "But this situation is different.

This year, the team decided that since the Blue Angels are a major recruiting tool for the Navy and Marine Corps, we should honor those who best support the same mission."

Dickinson started his day on Jan. 25, with a safety brief on the F/A-18 Hornet and a class on the Anti-G Straining Maneuver.

The Anti-G Straining Maneuver, a forced-breathing technique, calls for aircrew members to literally flex many muscles in their bodies, take a deep breath and then do a brief air exchange of exhaling and inhaling.

The brief also went over the characteristics and capabilities of the F/A-18 Hornet.

As the aerial demonstration aircraft for the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels since 1986, its primary missions are fighter escort, fleet air defense, suppression of enemy air defenses, interdiction, close air support and reconnaissance.

It flies at nearly twice the speed of sound and can be equipped with precision-guided missiles, bombs, and a 20mm nose cannon capable of firing at 4,000 rounds per minute.

Following the brief, Dickinson met with the pilot who would take him on this rare flight.

After take-off, the pilot took the jet through several climbing and diving maneuvers that would test the Dickinson's intestinal fortitude.

"This was a ride of a lifetime," said the Princeton, Ill. native. "I have a new-found respect for what these pilots do. In Iraq I always saw them overhead and wondered what it would be like up there."

The intense flight is something Dickinson said he will be talking about for many years to come.

However, he won't be the only person talking about this flight; his mother Mary Tumbleson, was able to accompany him on the base and see this once-in-a-lifetime flight.

"This was a great experience and everyone here was so gracious towards us,"
Tumbleson said. "Brandon has always been a competitive person. He played every sport and work to be the best.

"I knew when he went out on recruiting he would do well, but I never imagined he would get to do something like this."

All though these VIP flights are conducted annually, no one from Marine Corps Recruiting Command had gone on one until Dickinson, said Dunkelberger.

Tumbleson added that the pilots told her that this flight was special because it was for a Marine, and shows how the military as a whole is on the same team.

The Blue Angels' mission and Dickinson's recruit-



Staff Sgt. Brandon Dickinson, a recruiter from Recruiting Substation Wakasha, **Recruiting Station** Milwaukee, Marine Corps Recruiter of the Year 2007, rides back seat in a Blue Angels F/A-18A piloted by Lt. Frank Weisser, as it taxis on the runway at **Naval Air Facility El** Centro, Calif. Jan. 25. Dickinson was rewarded with a flight with the Blue Angels.

Cpl. Zach Griffith/12th Marine Corps District



Staff Sgt. Brandon Dickinson, gives the ready sign in the back seat of a F/A-18 Hornet flown by Lt. Frank Weisser. Dickinson was the first Marine from Marine Corps Recruiting Command to receive a ride-a-long with the Blue Angels Cpl. Zach Griffith/12th Marine Corps District

ing mission are essentially the same. The Blue Angels' mission is to enhance Navy and Marine Corps recruiting efforts and to represent the naval service to the United States. They serve as positive role models and goodwill ambassadors for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. And as a Marine recruiter, Dickinson does the same.



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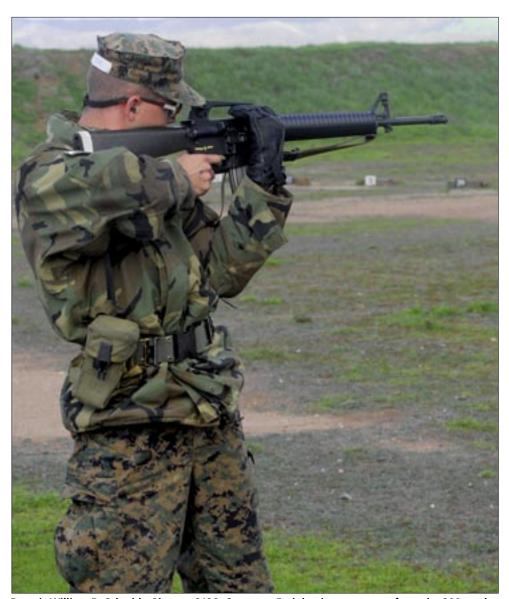
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Sgt. Joshua Armstrong, range coach, Weapons and Field Training Battalion, shows a recruit how to hold the M-16A2 service rifle in the standing position, during the marksmanship course at Edson Range, Camp Pendleton, Calif. Jan. 29. Range coaches work alongside recruits to ensure they use the shooting fundamentals during their two-and-a-half-week courses.

Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver/Chevron



Recruit William R. Schmidt, Platoon 2126, Company F, sights in on a target from the 200 yard line in the standing position on pre-qualification day at Edson Range, Camp Pendleton Calif., Jan. 29. Company F recruits underwent a two-and-a-half-week marksmanship course, learning the fundamentals of shooting. Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver/Chevron

Company F learn



Sgt. Christopher Sorrell, primary marksmanship instructor, WFTBn., Company F recruit how to apply sight black spray to his rifle's front tip to prevent glare. Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver/Chevron



Recruit Chad N. Prindle, Platoon 2126, Company F, fires a round from four shooting positions and fire at targets from 200 to 500 yards av



Company F recruits fire their weapons as range coaches (in pith helican cross the red line during firing, and only shooters and coaches coaches are Col. Palent W. Pagura (Chause)

s Marine marksmanship

BY LANCE CPL. ROBERT W. BEAVER Chevron staff

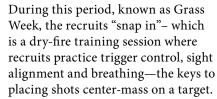
hroughout boot camp,
Company F recruits spent
hours learning everything
about the M-16A2 service
rifle. They learned its capabilities and
how to disassemble, and then reassemble their weapons in less than 60
seconds—they even slept with their
rifles in the field during the second
phase of boot camp.

The recruits also completed a two-and-a-half-week marksmanship course during second phase at Edson Range, Camp Pendleton, Calif., where they learned how to accurately shoot the M-16A2 service rifle.

"Marines are known for their success on the battlefield," said Sgt. Absalon Cabrera, drill instructor, Platoon 2125. "Our success starts right here at the range. No matter if the Marine is a cook or an (infantryman), our ability to shoot accurately is what makes us an effective organization."

During recruits' first week at Edson Range some of the Corps' most knowledgeable shooters, known as primary marksmanship instructors, teach recruits basic marksmanship fundamentals and critique them.

sight



"The fundamentals are very effective techniques," said Company F's high shooter recruit Robert Strong, Platoon 2122. "I've been a hunter my entire life but everything I learned was new. I'm definitely a better shooter."

After the week–long series of classes, recruits test their skills during a two-part qualification course: Tables 1 and 2.

The Table 1 course of fire, Fundamental Rifle Marksmanship, focuses on basic rifle firing and requires recruits to hit targets at distances from 200 to 500 yards from the sitting, kneeling, standing and prone shooting positions.

The Table 2 Basic Combat Rifle Marksmanship course applies fundamentals for combat-style shooting. Recruits shoot at targets from 15 to 100 yards away. They are tested on rifle presentation, moving targets, head shots, failure to fire drills and failure to stop the enemy drills.

Recruits are required to score a minimum of 190 points on Table 1 and 60 points on Table 2 for a combined score of 250 to pass the marksmanship course. A perfect score is 350 points.

Depending on their final scores, Company F recruits received marksman, sharpshooter or expert qualification badges that they will be wearing on their uniforms at graduation today.

"We are a better organization since we all know how to shoot," said Strong, a Fremont, Neb. native. "We can throw a group of Marines together and expect them to get the job done in combat."

After graduation, Company F Marines will go on to fill positions across a variety of military occupational specialties. No matter how they in serve the Marine Corps, they share one significant thing—they are all riflemen first.



A Company F recruit loads 5.56 mm ammunition into a magazine for the next course of fire. Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver/Chevron



Sgt. Christopher Sorrell, primary marksmanship instructor, Weapons and Field Training Battalion, observes a Company F recruit's position to determine what may be causing his inconsistent shooting. Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver/Chevron



n the sitting position at the 200 yard line. Recruits learn vay. Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver/Chevron



nents) watch and advise them. For safety reasons, no one an cross the yellow line during firing.



Cpl. Rudy Ramirez, range coach, Weapons and Field Training Battalion, explains the importance of using a data book to Company F recruits. Seen in Ramirez's hands, a data book helps recruits track their shots so they can make windage and elevation adjustments as necessary. Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver/Chevron

Company F honorman starts training at Parris Island, finishes here

BY CPL. CARRIE BOOZE Chevron staff

Recruit Derrik Cox grew up in the small town of Fort Drum, N.Y., without a doubt in his mind that he wanted to serve in the military. He spent his adolescent years playing varsity football and baseball for his high school, and as an athlete, he wanted to enlist in a service that was the most physically challenging.

"Although I had the influence of my uncle, a Blackhawk pilot in the Army, I wanted the pride and honor that came along with being a Marine," said Cox.

Cox enlisted in the Marine Corps while in high school, and left for Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., on July 3, 2007, 12 days after high school graduation.

He said that initially his parents were not fond of his military occupational specialty as an infantryman because they were afraid for his safety, but supported his endeavors anyway.

Cox said that recruit training at Parris Island was very difficult, but as he progressed and earned the billet of squad leader, he grew accustomed to the way of life.

On training day 44, the day after his platoon returned from the rifle range, the recruits ran a 3-mile circuit course. After they dropped to the ground at the pushup station, he felt fire ants crawling up his arms.

"I felt them biting me, but didn't want to move or brush them off because I didn't want to break my bearing or show lack of discipline," said Cox.

After his platoon completed the circuit course, Cox noticed that his arm was swollen and red so he told his senior drill instructor who immediately sent him to the corpsman.

"When I showed the corpsman she told me that I had an allergic reaction to the fire ant bites and my throat was beginning to swell closed. She gave me numerous shots and then sent me to the hospital where I was hooked up to an IV and monitored," said Cox.

Cox said that the worst part of that day was when the corpsman came into his room and handed him a paper stating that he was getting dropped from training and being sent home.

Cox was held in a medical platoon for six weeks before being sent home. He said that

he pleaded with the drill instructors to let him return to training, but they would not allow him back.

"I was excited to see my family again because I haven't seen them for so long, but I was very disappointed that I didn't come home as a Marine," said Cox.

Tammie Cox, his mother, said that when he returned home he was very depressed and upset with himself, but he was determined to return to recruit training.

He said that he was told numerous times by his drill instructors that he would never become a Marine because of his allergic reaction to fire ants, but that still did not deter him from his dream. The day after he returned home, Cox went back to his recruiting station and reenlisted with a medical waiver.

"I was proud of him when he reenlisted. Being a Marine was his dream, so he set the goal and didn't let anything deter him from achieving it," said his mother.

He decided to change his MOS to aviation mechanic to ease his parents' concern about his safety and because he eventually wants to become a Marine Corps pilot.

Cox was sent to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., on Dec. 17, instead of MCRD Parris Island, to avoid the fire ants. He picked up with Platoon 2121, Company C.

Cox returned to training stronger than ever. His drill instructors recognized his leadership traits, which earned him the billet of guide upon arrival to his new platoon.

"I felt way ahead of the game when I returned to training; I knew what I needed to get accomplished and tried to stay focused on my goal," said Cox.

Staff Sgt. Marvin Torres, drill instructor, Platoon 2121, said that despite having to repeat training, Cox remained motivated.

"Cox's experience set him apart from the other recruits and his leadership made it easier for his platoon to adapt to the recruit training environment," said Torres. "He was the strongest in close-order drill because he already had the snap and pop from his days at Parris Island."

Torres said that at one point in training the stress and responsibility of being a guide became too much for Cox and he quit the billet.

"I expected a lot from Cox so I constantly challenged his leadership," said Torres.
"When Cox quit as guide, the platoon fell apart so we encouraged him to return to

his leadership position. Once he became guide again the platoon began to excel and he successfully led them throughout the remainder of training."

Cox said that training was more physically demanding in San Diego because of the mountainous terrain they had to hike at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., but at Parris Island his discipline was honed because he had to train with the biting sand fleas without being able to brush them off.

Cox said that Torres was his role model throughout recruit training because of how much he motivated the platoon by just being passionate about his job.

"He always pushed our platoon to be the best, and never gave up on me even when I had given up on myself," said Cox. Cox graduates today as a meritorious lance corporal and the company honor

After 10 days of boot leave, Cox will attend the School of Infantry, Camp Pendleton, where he will complete the 22-day long Marine Combat Training then report to his MOS school.

Torres said that he is confident that Cox is both physically and mentally prepared for the Fleet Marine Force and has the abilities to conquer any upcoming challenges he may face in his career.

Cox said that he is looking forward to completing training and starting his career. He said that despite all of the setbacks and hardships, it feels good to finally earn the title Marine.



Recruit Derrik Cox knows what it's like to train at both recruit depots having been a recruit here and at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. Cox began his training at Parris Island, but was sent home because of an allergic reaction to fire ants. He graduates today from MCRD San Diego. Cpl. Carie Booze/Chevron

Sgt. Maj. Bobby B. Woods

PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER

Sgt. Maj. Bobby B. Woods enlisted in the Marine Corps December 1977 under the Delayed Entry Program. He went to recruit training in June 1978 at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. Upon completion of recruit training he attended Infantry Training School at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

His first duty station was in Hawaii, serving with an infantry battalion, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Division. While assigned there, he completed two Western Pacific deployments, participated in several peacetime operations, and served in billets ranging from a basic rifleman to platoon guide. After the completion of his final deployment, through the Fleet Assistance Program, he was assigned as an instructor at the Base Correctional Custody Unit from April 1981 to June 1982.

Promoted to sergeant, Woods

made a lateral move into the Aircraft Firefighting & Rescue field, and attended school at Naval Air Station Millington, Tenn. After completing school, he reported to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C. There, Woods served in billets of fire rescue man, driver operator, heavy equipment operator, and assistant section leader. In January 1985, he attended the Staff Noncommissioned Career Course at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. In August 1985, Woods received orders to Drill Instructor School in San Diego Calif., where he served as a drill instructor and senior drill instructor with Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion. In October 1987, he transferred to Marine Corps Air Station Tustin Calif., where he served as an assistant section leader, section leader, training chief and truck master.

In October 1991, Woods returned to Hawaii for duty serving with Marine Wing Support Squadron 174, and Station Operation and Maintenance Squadron. He served as an assistant section leader, section leader and training chief for the Aircraft Firefighting & Rescue Unit in both SOMS and MWSS 174. In August 1992, he attended the SNCO Advanced Course at Marine Corps Air Station El Toro Calif.

In August 1994, Woods received orders back to the drill field in San Diego where he served as a series gunnery sergeant for Company D, and first sergeant for Company C. In July 1995, he was reassigned to Drill Instructor School, serving as the senior/leadership instructor. In June 1996, while assigned to Drill Instructor School, he was selected for first sergeant and attended the first Commandant of the Marine Corps' First Sergeants' Course at MCB Quantico, Va. Upon completion of the First Sergeants' Course, he received orders to 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, 5th Marine Regiment, Camp Pendleton, Calif. While assigned

to Battalion Landing Team 2/4, he completed two deployments with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, deploying to Kuwait from December 1998 to April 1999. He participated in various operations during his tenure there. He served as company first sergeant for Weapons Company, Company G, and Headquarters and Service Company.

In June 1999, Woods was transferred to Headquarters and Support Battalion, MCB Camp Pendleton, serving as the company first sergeant for Support Company until his selection as sergeant major in March 2000. Woods then transferred to Assault Amphibian School Battalion at MCB Camp Pendleton, and served as the school sergeant major and area sergeant major until December 2002.

Woods served as sergeant major for Recruiting Station Chicago from December 2002 to January 2005. Upon the completion of his duty at RS Chicago, he was assigned to the 12th Marine Corps District from January 2005 to February 2006.

Woods' last assignment was sergeant major of Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region.

His personal decorations include two Meritorious Service Medals, two Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals and ten Good Conduct Medals.





COMPANY HONOR MAN Lance Cpl. D. R. Cox Buffalo, N.Y. Recruited by Staff Sgt. D. Collins



SERIES HONOR MAN Pfc. M. D. Mendez Corpus Christi, Texas Recruited by Sgt. D. Sanchez



PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. B. I. Ramer Seattle Recruited by Sgt. L. Tapia



PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. J. W. Piero Los Angeles Recruited by Sgt. F. Almada



HIGH SHOOTER (235) Pvt. R. E. Strong Des Moines, Iowa Marksmanship Instructor Sgt. L. A. Lingquisd



HIGH PFT (300) Pfc. A. R. Oliver Phoenix Recruited by Staff Sgt. D. E. Current

FOX COMPAN



Gunnery Sgt. Dennis E. Chambers, senior drill instructor, Platoon 2126, Company F, shows his Marines how to prepare their weapons for turn in Tuesday. Company F recruits graduate today and will be dismissed for 10 days of hard-earned leave. Cpl. James Green/Chevron

2ND RECRUIT TRAINING

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. R. R. Scott Lt. W. N. Tomasek Sergeant Major Sgt. Maj. T. L. Shatto Battalion Drill Master Staff Sgt. C. A. Mejia

COMPANY F

Commanding Officer Capt. J. P. Vorhees Company First Sergeant 1st Sqt. J. R. Calhoon

SERIES 2121 Series Commander

Capt. P. D. Jarr Chief Drill Instructor Sqt. R. Armendariz

PLATOON 2121 Senior Drill Instructor

Staff Sgt. A. E. Ron Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. M. A. Torres Sgt. J. L. Raza

Pfc. R. J. Archuleta Pvt. M. L. Baker Pfc. C. C. Ballenger Pvt. A. I. Baronov Pfc. D. G. Bayley Pvt. C. A. Beach Pvt. M. A. Bechtold Pvt. L. J. Black III Pvt. D. N. Booher III Pfc. K. M. Briglia Pvt. P. M. Burk Pvt. S. M. Burnett Pvt. N. M. Cambel Jr. Pvt. J. Chuong Pfc. J. P. Coningford Pvt. J. Cortez *Lance Cpl. D. R. Cox Pvt. J. R. Davis Pvt. M. G. Davis Pvt. M. M. Deal Pvt. C. S. Delacruz Pfc. V. C. Delafuente Pfc. A. E. Dillon Pvt. T. J. Dolan Pfc. K. D. Duncan Pfc. R. A. Dushkin Pfc. B. R. Elkins III

Pvt. G. C. Estrada Pvt. A. M. Fajardo Pfc J S Feliz Pvt. F. A. Gaitan Pvt. J. R. Gates Pfc. J. M. Gillen Pvt. M. A. Guerrero Pvt. R. A. Gummer Pvt. J. A. Hall Pvt. A. M. Hansen Pvt. S. R. Hanson Pfc. D. B. Harrison Pvt. T. P. Hegner Pvt. A. M. Hernandez Pvt. I. W. Hernandez Pfc. J. I. Herrera Pvt. C. T. Hill Pvt T K Ho Pvt. J. D. Johnson Pvt. K. L. Johnson Pfc. D. L. Johnston Pfc. K. R. Johnston Pfc. D. W. Jones Pvt. K. Joseph *Pfc. T. R. Kododo Pvt. D. F. Ladino *Pfc. J. M. Lerma Pfc. M. N. Little Pfc. W. M. Loving Pfc. D. Macedo Jr Pvt. J. Martinez

Pfc. D. A. Mathews Pvt. C. H. McNeill Pfc. R. W. Mienke Pfc. P. A. Miller Pvt. C. J. Moore Pvt. J. D. Moore Pvt. T. A. Moore Pvt. J. A. Moreno Pfc. G. M. Neal Jr. Pvt. J. J. Neal Pfc. J. D. Neis Pvt. C. D. Nelson *Pfc. P. N. Nunez

*Pfc. P. A. Reynolds

Pvt. A. M. Schiffman

Pvt. B. J. Stone Pfc. R. R. Trevizo III

Pfc. A. Trevizo

Pvt. J. A. Rivas *Pfc. J. Rodriguez

Pvt. B. M. Ohl Pfc. R. P. Olivas Pfc. A. R. Oliver Pvt. M. K. Pearson Pfc. M. D. Peckham

PLATOON 2122 Senior Drill Instructor Sgt. I. A. Ordaz Drill Instructors Sgt. A. L. Linares Sat. N. M. Romer Sot. G. Zapata Pvt. C. G. Addis Pvt. W. F. Anderson Pfc. A. G. Ardelean Pfc. J. F. Barth Pvt. C. L. Belin Pvt. M. A. Benson Pvt. J. D. Birkholz Pvt. J. A. Blocher Pfc. K .C. Brenneman Pvt. C. J. Broussard Pvt. R. J. Camino Pvt. C. Q. Campos Pvt S G Cantrell Pvt. B. J. Carr *Pfc. V. M. Chase Pvt. P. J. Chavez Pvt. J. L. Collier Pvt. J. M. Collings Pvt. C. R. Cooling Pvt. G. L. Cooney Pfc. A. M. Corzatt Pfc. J. D. Coverdale *Pfc. J. R. Cuevas

Pvt. W. B. Davis Pvt. C. E. Deming Pfc. A. M. Devenport Pvt. J. A. Dorn Pvt. J. M. Edmonds Pfc. C. M. Edwards Pvt. S. E. Ellifritt *Pfc. E. J. Ewina Pvt. C. D. Fogle Pvt. J. K. Forsyth Pvt. N. S. Forwalder Pvt. K. T. Givens Pfc. B. J. Gomez Pvt. B. A. Guarino Pvt. M. T. Haywood Pvt. J. R. Hernandez Jr. Pvt. B. W. Hill Pfc. A. M. Kraushaar *Pfc. R. E. Lamb Pvt. D. L. Lamberson Pfc. J. T. Leonoff Pvt. J. D. Luke Pvt. J. E. Lutcavage Pfc. J. D. McAdams Pvt. M. J. McKeown Pfc. D. J. Miner Pvt. J. M. Moore

Pfc. T. T. Nguyen Pvt. K. L. Norman Pvt. N. F. Olivares Pvt. E. Pena *Pfc. B. I. Ramei Pvt. C. A. Ricketts II Pvt. J. W. Rivera-Salgado *Pfc. A. E. Roblero Pvt. A. D. Rodgers Pvt. G. A. Sadomskiy *Pfc. J. L. Schiff Pvt. K. J. Schuld Pvt. P. R. Sense Pvt. F. A. Shuster Pvt. R. A. Smith Pfc. M. B. Spurgeon Pfc. G. R. Starks III Pvt. M. J. Stitt Pvt. W. J. St. John Pvt. T. J. Stoker Pvt. R. E. Strong Pvt. B. C. Tarlton Pvt. J. D. Turner Pvt. D. R. Twilley Pvt. D. C. Urbaniak Pfc. J. H. Vanmeter Pvt. J. R. Vidana Pfc. M. D. Vidana Pfc. J. L. Wallace Pvt. A. J. Walls Pfc. C. R. Ward Jr. Pfc. J. L. Wendt Pvt. G. Y. Zavala-Vazquez SERIES 2125

Series Commander Capt. T. W. Tilque Chief Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. R. H. Lee

PLATOON 2125 Senior Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. R. C. Velliquette Staff Sgt. A. L. Cardoza Staff Sgt. A. M. Green Sgt. A. A. Cabrera

Pvt. J. L. Allen Pvt. R. Andrade Jr. Pvt B V Annunziato Pvt. H. J. Aranda *Pfc. M. A. Arias-Rodriguez Pvt. R. W. Armstrong Pvt. D. W. Bainbridge Pfc. S. K. Bellers Pvt. M. J. Blazejewski Pvt. P. A. Borut

Pvt. T. A. Brozewski Pfc. J. M. Buth Pvt. S. A. Butusov Pvt. S. M. Carlson Pfc. J. M. Choi Pvt. R. D. Cobb Pvt. J. R. Cody *Pfc. D. M. Colombel Pvt M F Crain Pfc. C. D. Crosier Pvt. B. R. Dehne Pvt. T. W. Ducich Pvt. M. J. Edes *Pfc. S. C. Engwall Pvt. B. Feron Pfc. F. A. Fierro Pvt. Z. T. Ford Pfc. J. D. Frye Pfc. S. Fuchigami Pfc. N. C. Gilbert *Pfc. G. J. Greathouse Jr. Pvt. K. A. Harris Pvt. D. A. Heady Pvt. A. E. Henderson Pvt. K. Henson Pvt. J. B. Horton Pvt. A. J. Hunkins Pfc. J. A. Isaac Pvt. R. A. Jackson Pvt. J. M. Johnson Pvt. V. R. Juarez Pvt. P. M. Korger Pvt. M. C. Laponsie Pvt. M. A. Ledezma II Pvt. D. G. Lee Pfc. J. A. Livingston Pvt. C. D. Loughin Pvt. D. D. Martin Pvt A Martinez Pvt. R. J. McIntyre Pvt. C. S. Melby Pfc. M. D. Mendez Pfc. G. E. Meyer III Pvt. R. Millan Pvt. J. E. Morris *Pfc. J. M. Nail Pvt. M. V. Navarro

Pvt. J. A. Nungaray Pfc. K. Y. Pak

Pvt. K. M. Parmelee Pvt. M. R. Patch

Pvt. N. G. Pletten Pvt. I. T. Ramsey

Pfc. M. D. Rennick

Pvt. A. Rojas Pvt. N. P. Scully

Pvt. D. C. Phegley Jr.

Pvt. I. J. Parish

Pvt. C. G. Simpson Pvt. P. R. Taylor Pvt. S. L. Teague Pfc. J. A. Thom Pfc. K. S. Thorpe Pvt. M. Tmetuchl Pvt. A. J. Vaught Pvt. J. Velasco III Pvt. A. P. Vonranzow Pfc. J. R. Ward Pvt. A. S. Williams Pfc. D. L. Willis Pvt. B. A. Wilson Pvt. C. J. Wittbrodt Pvt. K. C. Woods *Pfc. T. J. Zumwalt PLATOON 2126 Senior Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. D. E. Chambers Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. L. K. Borja

Staff Sgt. M. C. Drahiem Sat. D. C. Robinson Pvt. I. W. Albertson-Snider Pvt. T. A. Barnes Pvt. K. E. Boudin *Pfc. S. L. Clifton Pvt. C. D. Comer Pfc. C. D. Diaz Pvt. T. L. Ehlert Pvt. T. W. Fleming Pvt. E. T. Gehant Pvt. A. C. Hill Pvt. D. S. Howard Pvt. B. M. Isch Pvt. E. J. Kasch Pvt. M. M. Kawamura Pvt. J. W. Kohnekamp Pvt. P. S. Kopanuk Pvt C .I Kutlesa Pvt. R. P. Lee Jr. Pvt. L. A. Livingston Pvt. C. A. Loux Pvt. P. V. Marquez Pfc. C. S. Martin Pvt V A Martinez .lr Pvt. D. Martinez-Sarabia Pvt. W. A. McClellan Pvt. P. J. McKernan III Pvt. B. T. McNerney Pvt. C. W. Mertz Pvt. C. J. Meyers Pvt. C. M. Mohrweis Pfc. R. W. Moquin Jr. Pvt. J. R. Mowery Pvt. P. V. Nguyen

Pvt. W. J. Olson Pvt. D. M. Padula Pfc. A. E. Palacios *Pfc. D. J. Perez Pfc. M. R. Perry *Pfc. J. W. Piero Pvt. L. J. Pontillo Pfc. K. N. Poucil Jr. Pvt. C. N. Prindle Pfc. A. M. Ramirez Pvt. C. R. Rauta Pfc. J. D. Raybon Pvt. K. J. Redlin *Pfc. M. C. Reincke Pvt. S. B. Retter *Pfc. G. A. Rhea Pfc. A. L. Richards Pvt. B. Richardson Pvt. J. D. Richardson Pvt. A. V. Rodriguez Jr. Pvt. J. Rubio Pvt. B. P. Sanchez Pvt. I. A. Santellan Pfc. M. V. Schaupp Pvt. W. R. Schmidt Pvt. B. J. Schoonmaker II Pvt. J. F. Schurtz Jr. Pvt. J. N. Sears Pvt. D. A. Selenskikh Pfc. P. T. Slocum Pfc. H. C. Smith Pfc. E. T. Stimac Pfc. E. C. Stratton Pfc. A. O. Sutter Pvt. S. R. Tate Pvt. R. J. Terrell Pvt. H. Torres-Garcia Pfc. T. J. Turbyfill *Pfc. J. K. Valence Pvt. S. W. Vaughn Pvt. J. C. Vazquez Pvt. D. A. Vera Pvt. S. C. Verry Pvt. R. T. Voegtle Pvt. J. N. Wallace Pfc. R. R. Wallace Pfc. A. S. White Pfc. A. D. Wilkinson Pvt. C. P. Wright

Pvt. B. Odem

*Denotes meritorious promotion

Capturing the moment

Single Marine Program sends service members on photo scavenger hunt

BY LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CHAVEZ Chevron staff

wenty-five depot
Marines and sailors
competed for one
movie ticket per team
member during the Single
Marine Program Photo
Scavenger Hunt Saturday.

With the help of clues and objectives, the service members ventured across San Diego County to shoot photos verifying completion of their tasks, and to accumulate points.

The participants were organized into three teams: Pink; Blue; and Red, White and Blue Team. The clues challenged them to find their objectives by working with strangers and finding locations while providing verification by taking team photos with their team mascot, a stuffed animal.

"Our team went to Ocean Beach where we pretended to be mannequins in a window," said Cpl. Anthony Rogers, Single Marine Program President. "It was a lot of fun."

Varying in difficulty, each task was worth 10-to-50 points and included taking a picture with the dog of the week at the Humane Society; helping an elderly woman across the street; each team standing on one surf board; one member in a tuxedo; the entire team wearing sombreros; and with newly-

weds on their wedding day, said Rogers.

"We were driving to the (San Diego) zoo to take a picture with the monkeys, which was 50 points and we saw a bride and groom taking pictures next to a fountain," said Pfc. Shan DeLeon, Red, White and Blue Team. "We ran up and asked them to take a picture with us."

DeLeon's team won the game with a total of 540 points—which was nearly 10 points more than second place.

The three-hour event ended at the depot Recreation Center, where the SMP program provided lunch while they shared stories and waited for the announcement of the wining team.

"It was great running around San Diego and doing stupid stuff," said Sgt. Aaron Miles, Blue Team. "Especially going up to random people and getting them to do things."

The photo scavenger hunt has taken place for the last two years.

Depot Marines can give their ideas for fun events at the meetings held on the last Wednesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. at the depot Recreation Center.

The Single Marine Program helps enhance the morale and well-being of the single Marines and sailors on base. For more information on Single Marine Program events, log on to www.mccsmcrd.com.



Marines with the winning Blue Team of the Single Marine Program Photo Scavenger Hunt pose like mannequins in a store window Saturday. The scavenger hunt has ran consecutively for two years and takes Marines across San Diego County to snap photographs doing various tasks to earn points. Photos courtesy of SMP



Lance Cpl. Gerald Johnson, Blue Team, attempts to get the attention of a seal at Sea World in San Diego. The blue team swept the competition after taking a photo with a newly married couple. Photos courtesy of SMP

CURRENT CG'S CUP STANDINGS

	Team	Placement points	Entry points	Total
1st	H&S	43	38	121
2nd	RTR	12	38	120
3rd	COAST GUARD	51	38	99
4th	DISTRICT	5	38	78
5th	NAVY	3	5	8